

it's fair to the public and I think it gives a kind of power to individual senators, to special investigators, and there is no definition of these investigators, no definitions or perimeters within which this counsel must operate and, because of those things, I would have to oppose this amendment. I don't think it's necessary and the only time I think a citizen ought to be in peril of a criminal charge, if at all, would be if they are called before a committee, they're informed of all their rights and then warned, after taking an oath, that if you tell an... if you lie under oath then you're subject to perjury charges. In that situation, I don't have as much concern. Even then I have some, but I definitely would not think this to be a wise policy.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit. Senator Chizek on deck.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I have visited with Senator Chizek and with Mr. Glaser, Committee Counsel for the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Glaser believes, and Senator Chizek concurs, that the statutes have been changed subsequent to the Douglas situation and that the Douglas case in 1987 has brought, did bring forward additional language which provides for a penalty for providing false information to a variety of individuals and it could be construed that it would be... include legislators. I do not, at this time, want to bog down this bill with an amendment which causes concern for most of you, many of you, but I did want to call it to your attention. I believe it is important. I believe it is absolutely mandatory that not just this committee, which is at the present time investigating the problem related with Franklin Federal Credit Union, but that any time a special committee of the Legislature is involved in such activity that individuals know that when they come before a committee they are not merely reciting stories. There has been enough... there have been enough attempts to intimidate individuals who had helped this committee. There have been enough attempts made by various entities who would question the work of the committee. There have been attempts made to impugn the integrity of committee witnesses and I do not think that is in the interest of justice. There are those who, today, have centered their investigation upon the victim/witnesses of the Franklin Committee rather than having pursued the leads that would have been visible to any legitimate law enforcement agency. They have chosen to discredit committee witnesses rather than to pursue those areas they should have pursued even upon their own initiative. I do